THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI B.S. RAMOOWALIA): (a) The Government has recognised that adoption is the ideal and most effective means of non-institutional support for the orphaned, destitute, abandoned, relinquished and neglected children as it provides the child are and protection in a family setting which is necessary for his/her total development.

The paramount interest of the Government is to ensure that as many children as possible are adopted in Indian families as it is believed that a child's development is best in his/her own cultural milieu. Therefore, this Ministry has been laying emphasis on promoting in-country adoption. Inter-country adoption will be reserted to only when all avenues of placement in Indian families have been exahusted.

In order to encourage in-country adoption and also to provide care, protection and nurturing to children of very young age (between 0-6 years), the Ministry of Welfare since 1992-93 has been implementing the Central Sector Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for setting up of Homes (Shishu Greh) for infants for promoting in-country adoption. The Scheme is operated through non-Governmental Organisations and grants are given for setting up of Homes to maintain a minimum of 10-20 children between the age group of 0-6 years and place them in adoption in India families. At present 45 Homes are being assisted under the Scheme.

(c) and)d) In the case of the word 'Adoption' featuring in Passports, with effect from 20th August, 1996, the Ministry of External affairs has issued instructions vide para 171 of the Passport Manual, 1983, to all Passport issuing authorities not to give any indication in the Passport of the adopted child to the fact that he/she has been adopted. These instructions the now being scrupulously followed by all Regional Passport Officers/Passport Officers.

As per forms for Driving Licences and other documents prescribed in the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1988, the fact of "adoption" or otherwise is not required.

(b) and (e) The onus for ensuring that the adopted child is integrated into the mainstream and also ensure whether the child comes to know the fact of his/her adoption during infant years is essentially dependent upon the adoptive parents, extended family and the community in which the child is living. The Placement Agencies have counseling sessions with the adoptive parents and the extended family prior to adoption as well as post adoption with regard to many factors which inter-alia include the communication of the fact of adoption to the child. The Government is also giving grants to Voluntary Coordinating Agencies to conduct Awareness Compaigns and Sensitisation Programmes for all matters pertaining to adoption.

Memorandum by FCI Employees' Union, Visakhapatnam against surrendering of godowns

*148. DR.Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether FCI Employees' Union, Visakhapatnam have submitted a Memorandum against surrendering of godowns;

(b) if so, the details of their demands; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Union vide their Memo. No. Nil, dated 9.7.96 demanded retention of godown Nos. 5 and 6 at Vizag Port Trust (VPT) area. The Union had also demanded that FCI should acquire alternative land for construction of godown and till then the godowns in question should not be surrendered to the VPT.

(c) These godowns were handed over to VPT in June, 1995 (on the insistence of the V.P.T.). However, these godowns were hired by FCI as per its requirement and are continuing with the FCI.

Technology upgradation of small scale industires

*149. SHRI SAIFULLA:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for technology

upgradation of small scale industries functioning in Andhra Pradesh in collaboration with Indonesia is under consideration;

(b) the action taken on the request made by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in this regard; and

(c) the other steps proposed for promotion of technology upgradation among small scale industries through international cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) A project proposal prepared by the Andhra Pradesh Industrial and Technology Consultancy Organisation for international cooperation between India and Indonesia, to promote technology transfer from the Indonesian small and medium enterprises to the Indian Small Scale Industries and vice-versa was submitted to the Office of the Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries, New Delhi for funding under the Scheme of "International Cooperation—Modernisation and Technology Upgradation". An amount of Rs. 6.50 lakhs has been sanctioned to the Office of DC (SSI) through whom the proposal was received.

(b) This Department has examined the proposal of APITCO and sanctioned Rs. 6.50 lakhs. State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been informed of the action taken.

(c) In order to promote technology upgradation and modernisation in the SSI sector, the Department of Small Scale Industries and Agro & Rural Industries is implementing the scheme of International Cooperation—Modernisation and Technology upgradation under the "Plan" from the year 1995-96. Under this scheme financial assistance is provided to National Small Industries Corporation, State Agencies, Industry associations and Export Promotion Councils for promoting modernisation and technolocy upgradation in the SSI Sector.

Foreign exchange earnings from Gem and Jewellery

*150. SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRI MD. SALIM:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the net earnings of foreign exchange from the gem and jewellery (export minus import of gold, diamond, gem and other previous stones etc.) for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLAHBULLI RAMAIH): The net foreign exchange earned in Gem and Jewellery Sector during last three years is as follows:—

(Value in US$ Million)

Year	Exports	Imports	Net Foreign* exchange earnings
1993-94	3994.70	2817.73	1176.97
1994-95	4500.40	2098.15	2402.25
1995-96	5275.44	3516.00	1759.44

*The net yearwise foreign exchange earning figures are only notional to the extent that there is invariably a time lag between imports and exports.

US ban on Indian Shrimps

*151. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the USA has imposed ban/ restrictions on the Indian Shrimp exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action proposed by the Government to settle the issue;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to approach World Trade Organisation to stay the restrictions imposed by the USA; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) USA has imposed a ban which is applicable to exports of Indian Shrimp and products derived from shrimp which have been harvested with commercial fishing technology which may adversely affect sea turtles. Based on ruling of the U.S. Court of International Trade given on 29.12.1995, Section 609 of the U.S. Public Law No. 101-162 is applicable to India,